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ICN Equipment Replacement Recommendation

Governor's Recommended Appropriation: \$1,704,719
Restricted Capitals Fund

Background:

The Iowa Communications Network is the state owned fiber optic network that reaches into every corner of the state providing voice, video, data, and high-speed Internet services to authorized users of the network. Hospitals, clinics, public and private education institutions, state and federal agencies, public libraries, homeland security, public safety, and public defense users deliver their services to Iowans anywhere in the state via the ICN leased and owned fiber. ICN provides full-motion two-way video conferencing capabilities to over 6,000 Iowans each day in over 770 classrooms for distance education. There is a classroom within 15 miles of any location in Iowa. The ICN also provides data and high-speed Internet capabilities, as well as voice services to users statewide.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Appropriation Recommendation:

Why is the ICN requesting funding to replace equipment?

This appropriation request is needed for replacement of aging equipment and additional equipment for the network.

Why can't the ICN pay for equipment replacement or expansion from fees for services provided to ICN authorized users?

Currently, Chapter 8D of the Code of Iowa only allows the ICN to only include operational costs in its fee structure. SF 133, a bill that is cosponsored by Senators Dvorsky and Wieck will begin to address this issue. The network has immediate equipment replacement needs that require funding. Some of the ICN's equipment has aged beyond its life span and replacement parts and spares are not available. Equipment manufacturers often do not support outdated equipment.

What equipment will be replaced or added?

Local Telephone System	\$	899,662
Backbone video transmission equipment	\$	435,561
Network router equipment	\$	100,000
Additional Capitol Complex ATM switch	\$	150,000
Completion of a Des Metro fiber ring	\$	119,496

ICN Equipment Replacement Request

- **Voice (Local Telephone System) equipment serving state agencies in the capitol complex needs to be replaced.** The manufacturer no longer supports the equipment and a third party refurbishes all replacement parts. Even refurbished parts are becoming scarce. The replacement equipment would not only provide the current telephone service but would enable a transition to Voice over IP services. This funding will replace 2 of 6 switches.
- **Backbone video transmission equipment that was intended for use on the original network architecture.** The manufacturer no longer supports this equipment. If not replaced there is a potential that the ICN cannot serve authorized users attached to this out of date equipment. This funding will replace a portion of the unsupported equipment.
- **Network router equipment that directs voice, video, and data traffic on the backbone of the network has exceeded its lifespan.** This equipment is vital to all ICN Internet services. If this equipment is not replaced a major breakdown in the routing of traffic is eminent and services requested by users will not be available.
- **Additional Capitol Complex ATM switch.** The current Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) switch at the Capitol Complex has reached its maximum capacity. An expansion switch is necessary to meet the growing transport requirements for the simultaneous transport of voice, video, and data by authorized users based at the Capitol Complex.
- **Completion of a Des Moines Metro fiber ring.** Completion of the Des Moines Metro fiber ring will insure greater reliability for ICN authorized users across the state. The Metro ring serves as the ICN gateway to other long haul carriers and the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) for access to voice, video, data, and Internet services. Completion of the ring and interconnection of the current disparate fiber links will provide redundant service to other carriers improving reliability for ICN users as well as saving money.

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